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PATENT 7-11-02

Attorney Docket No.: 047329-5001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

James J. BANCROFT

Application No.: 10/014,440

Filed: December 14, 2001

For: MOUTHGUARD

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Group Art Unit: 3764

Examiner: M. Brown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the application, please make the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 27-35:

27. (New) A mouthguard comprising:

a frame member having an inwardly facing rear surface disposable adjacent a wearer's teeth, and an outwardly facing front surface disposable adjacent to the wearer's lips and cheeks, one of said front and rear surfaces includes a transition separating said one surface into first and second portions that are offset from each other such that the first portion extends outwardly further than second portion;

a first bite tab portion adapted to engage at least a portion of a front tooth of the wearer when the jaw of wearer is closed, said first bite tab portion having a proximal side adjacent the rear surface of said frame member, and a distal side opposite the proximal side;

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